

Without Love I Am Nothing

I Corinthians 13:2

The Corinthian Christians struggled with jealousy of others for having certain gifts in the church. The spectacular gifts (*tongues, prophecy, and miracles*,) were desperately sought by all. Paul mentions the three spectacular gifts (vs. 1-2) but then says, "Without love, I...am...nothing."

If I have the gift of prophecy, and know all **mysteries** and all **knowledge**; and if I have **all faith**, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.

I. To know all mysteries makes you somebody special in other peoples' eyes.

"If I have the gift of prophecy to know all mysteries..." Prophecy is "the supernatural ability to know the mind of God." It is the ability to know things because you know God's mind.

- A. The O.T. prophets unveiled the mysteries of the future...** Isaiah, Daniel, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel. There were false prophets like Balaam who also claimed the prophetic gift.
- B. The N.T. apostles revealed the mysteries of the Good News...** rightly called "the mystery of the gospel" (Ephesians 6:20) or "the mystery of the church" (Rom. 11:25).
- C. Some Christians in Corinth desired to know the mysteries of the age...** How would you like to be able to know the future and God's thoughts through prophecy? The Corinthian Christians were familiar with priestesses of Delphi and wanted that power.

II. To have all knowledge makes you somebody special in other peoples' eyes.

"If I have the gift of prophecy ... (and have) all knowledge." This "all" knowledge would be natural and scientific knowledge. To be able to know the heavens, the earth and the seas, the arts and the sciences, both macro and micro technology, and to have all knowledge of people, languages, and customs would be so stunning! You could win all the trivia games, and make a fortune. Knowledge is power and all knowledge is all power. But without love?

III. To solve all problems makes you somebody special in other peoples' eyes.

"If I have all faith so as to remove mountains..." Mountain moving faith is usually attributed to the gift of "miracles." It is a supernatural ability to solve all problems. The ancient rabbis called one who solved disputes – "the rooter-up of mountains." It is the ability to overcome every obstacle, to go where nobody has gone before. These people make great leaders.

IV. Without love, the mark of genuine Christianity, I am nothing in God's eyes.

"If I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all Faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, **I am nothing**" (I Corinthians 13:2).

A. It is possible to be something in this world and nothing in the eyes of God.

You could earn a fortune by rightly predicting the movement of the stock market, or you could be the president of a corporation due to ability to "root-up mountains," or you could be a great scientist or scholar but without love you are nothing (vs. 4-8).

(B). God's love is not something forced, it is something that flows.

Love is produced in our hearts as God overwhelms us with His love in Christ.